



HELLO, I'M THEA!

I'm *Geronimo Stilton's* sister.
As I'm sure you know from my brother's

bestselling novels, I'm a special correspondent for *The Rodent's Gazette*, Mouse Island's most famous newspaper. Unlike my 'fraidy mouse brother, I absolutely adore traveling, having adventures, and meeting rodents from all around the world!

The adventure I want to tell you about begins at Mouseford Academy, the school I went to when I was a young mouseling. I had such a great experience there as a student that I came back to teach a journalism class.

When I returned as a grown mouse, I met five really special students: Colette, Nicky, Pamela, Paulina, and Violet. You could hardly imagine five more different mouselings, but they became great friends right away. And they liked me so much that they decided to name their group after me: the Thea Sisters! I was so touched by that, I decided to write about their adventures. So turn the page to read a fabumouse adventure about the

THEA SISTERS!

nicky

Name: Nicky

Nickname: Nic

Home: Australia

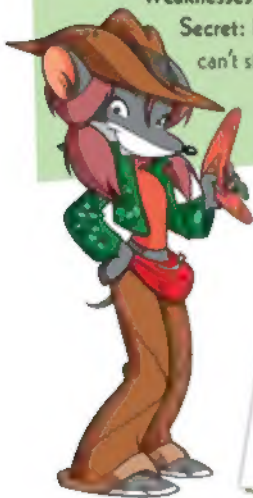
Secret ambition: Wants to be an ecologist.

Loves: Open spaces and nature.

Strengths: She is always in a good mood, as long as she's outdoors!

Weaknesses: She can't sit still!

Secret: Nicky is claustrophobic—she can't stand being in small, tight places.



COLETTE

Name: Colette

Nickname: It's Colette,
please. (She can't stand nicknames.)

Home: France

Secret ambition: Colette is very particular about her appearance. She wants to be a fashion writer.

Loves: The color pink.

Strengths: She's energetic and full of great ideas.

Weaknesses: She's always late!

Secret: To relax, there's nothing Colette likes more than a manicure and pedicure.



VIOLET

Name: Violet

Nickname: Vi

Home: China

Secret ambition: Wants to become a great violinist.

Loves: Books! She is a real intellectual, just like my brother, Geronimo.

Strengths: She's detail-oriented and always open to new things.

Weaknesses: She is a bit sensitive and can't stand being teased. And if she doesn't get enough sleep, she can be a real grouch!

Secret: She likes to unwind by listening to classical music and drinking green tea.



PAULINA

Name: Paulina

Nickname: Polly

Home: Peru

Secret ambition: Wants to be a scientist.

Loves: Traveling and meeting people from all over the world. She is also very close to her sister, Maria.

Strengths: Loves helping other rodents.

Weaknesses: She's shy and can be a bit clumsy.

Secret: She is a computer genius!



PAMELA

Name: Pamela

Nickname: Pam

Home: Tanzania

Secret ambition: Wants to become a sports journalist or a car mechanic.

Loves: Pizza, pizza, and more pizza! She'd eat pizza for breakfast if she could.

Strengths: She is a peacemaker. She can't stand arguments.

Weaknesses: She is very impulsive.

Secret: Give her a screwdriver and any mechanical problem will be solved!



Geronimo Stilton

Thea Stilton
**AND THE PRINCE'S
EMERALD**



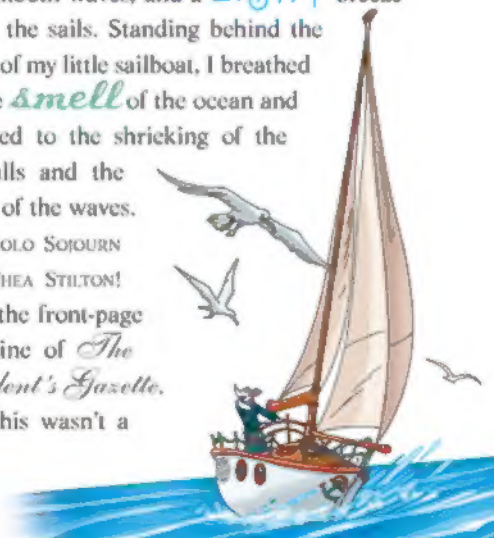
Scholastic Inc.



A SOLO SOJOURN

I, Thea Stilton, was smack-dab in the middle of the Mousific Ocean. It had been a week since I'd **LEFT** Mouse Island. Today the **SEA** was calm. The **sunshine** reflected on the smooth waves, and a **LIGHT** breeze filled the sails. Standing behind the helm of my little sailboat, I breathed in the **smell** of the ocean and listened to the shrieking of the seagulls and the slosh of the waves.

A SOLO SOJOURN
FOR THEA STILTON!
read the front-page
headline of *The
Rodent's Gazette*.
But this wasn't a



pleasure cruise. I was a mouse on a mission! I'd set sail to inspect the state of the ocean's health. Every day, I took samples of **water,** recorded the movements of a school of sardines, and took notes on my **laptop.** I was used to traveling alone, especially for work, so I wasn't lonely. But this particular morning was so *Beautiful* that I longed to share it with my friends.

At that moment, I heard the sound of an incoming call on my computer.

Beep! Beep! Beep!

The call was from my dear friends the **THEA SISTERS!** I'm sure you know all about them. A little while back, I'd been invited to teach a class in adventure journalism at my old school, **MOUSEFORD ACADEMY.** *Colette,* *Nicky,* **PAMELA,** **PAULINA,** and **Violet** — the Thea Sisters —

were in my class. Without a doubt, they are the five brightest young rodents I've ever met.

I glanced at the caller ID. To my surprise, the call was coming from . . .

"**INDIA?!!**" I asked, astounded. "In the name of all that's **cheesy** and delicious, what brings you to India, mouselings?"

"Thea, it's a story longer than an elephant's trunk," Violet replied.

"We've had the most **incredible** adventure!" Colette added.



"You can squeak that again! It's been a trip we'll never forget," Pamela confirmed with **EXCITEMENT**.

Those were strong words coming from the Thea Sisters! Their **adventures** had led them all over the globe. I knew I was in for a good story, so I sat down and curled up my tail.



"Okay, **mouselets**. I'm all ears! Something tells me that my next book will be set in India. . . ."

And I was right: On the busy **streets** of Chennai, India, my friends the Thea Sisters had lived through one of their **most fabumouse** adventures! Want to know more? Grab yourself a cup of hot cheese, get comfy, and **READ** on!



VACATION TIME!

At **MOUSEFORD ACADEMY**, another school year was coming to a close, and the students were preparing for summer vacation. Colette, Nicky, Pamela, Paulina, and Violet had their *airplane* tickets ready.

As they packed up their **SUITCASES** and backpacks, the mouselets told one another about their plans for the summer.

"Lots of rest, and lots of music!" Violet declared, *stretching her paws*. "Hibernating in the winter is for bears, but this mouse is planning to hibernate all summer long!"

Pamela laughed. "I think we've planned *opposite* vacations. I'm not going to sleep a wink this summer. Instead, I'm going to cross the United States in my brother Sam's

new **RACE CAR!**"

"I'm going to spend all my time with Maria," Paulina declared. Maria was her younger sibling and an **HONORARY** Thea Sister. "I can't wait to see her!"

"I'm going straight to the spa!" Colette added. "After all my studying this semester, I need to **relax** and get back in shape."



"You want to **GET IN SHAPE?**" Nicky responded, "Then come join me in Australia! I'll get you in shape faster than a **HYPERACTIVE** hamster on a treadmill. I'm going on a **trek** through the outback, and I'll be teaching sports classes everywhere we go. Hiking, climbing, rowing . . . there'll be something for everyone."



Paulina sighed happily. "It's going to be a perfect **summer**. I just wish I were going to see all of you! I'll miss you mice."

Nicky nodded. "I know! I was so busy planning my outback **adventure** that I forgot to schedule a little time with my **FRIENDS**."



Ashvin

At that moment, Nicky's cell phone started to ring.

Brring! Brring! Brring!

Can you guess who it was? It was Ashvin! Yes, Ashvin — the **charming** and slightly reckless Indian ratling the Thea Sisters had met on the **Alaskan tundra***!

Ashvin had just managed to squeak out a **hello** when the line **SUDDENLY** cut out.

* The Thea Sisters met Ashvin in the book *Thea Stilton and the Ice Treasure*.

A moment later, the phone rang again.

Brring! Brring! Brring!

It was Ashvin again, but no luck this time, either; the line went **DEAD** immediately.

Paulina pulled her laptop out of her backpack and set up a satellite connection with **INDIA**. "No worries, mouselets! We'll contact Ashvin over the **Internet**," she said. "Maybe we'll get a better connection online."

Soon Ashvin appeared on the screen. He looked **WORRIED**.

"Mouselets, I need your **HELP**," he said. He sounded **ALARMED**. "You're my only hope!"

The Thea Sisters **EXCHANGED** puzzled looks: What was going on with Ashvin?



A CHANGE OF PLANS

Ashvin was in the southern part of India, in the coastal city of Chennai. He was finishing up a very **IMPORTANT** project for the **Green Mice***

"For the last few months," the young mouse explained, "I've been working with Professor Mousewin to create an oasis for the **monkeys** who live in the city."

"Charles Mousewin, the **famouse** ethologist" **?!" Paulina exclaimed, **surprised**.

"That's right!" Ashvin confirmed. "We want to return the monkeys that live in the city to their **natural** habitat, but it's a long and **COMPLICATED** process." He sighed.

* The Green Mice is the name of the ecological organization Nicky and Paulina belong to.

** An *ethologist* is a scientist who studies animals' habits and how they adapt to their surroundings.

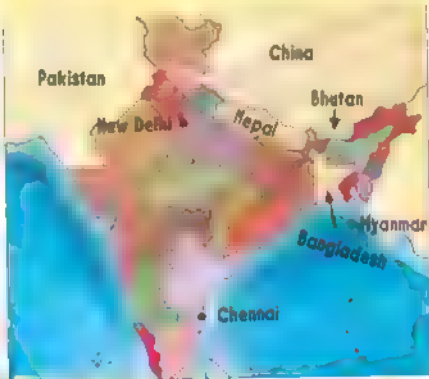
INDIA

Capital: New Delhi

Population: About 1,173,108,000

Official languages: Hindi and English

Government: Federal republic



India is located in South Asia. It is the second most populous country in the world, after China. There is archaeological evidence that shows that it was the cradle of a sophisticated ancient culture, the Indus civilization, nearly five thousand years ago.

India was a colony of the British Empire from the 1750s until 1947, when it gained its independence. Today the Indian economy is growing rapidly, and India is often referred to as an 'emerging nation'.

"I'm so sorry to bother you with this. . . ."

"Don't be ridiculous! You're not bothering us a bit!" Pam exclaimed.

"Pam's right. That's what **FRIENDS** are for," Nicky agreed. "How can we help you?"

Ashvin's **eyes** filled with relief: The **THEA SISTERS** were truly fabumouse friends! He began to tell his tale. "Well, **MAHARAJAH* RAJAN PANEER** is due to arrive in Chennai any day now, and —"

"A real maharajah? How marvemouse!" Colette interrupted him. She clapped her paws with **excitement**. "I've always dreamed of meeting one!"

Ashvin smiled. "Well, now you'll definitely have to come! The maharajah's son, Lakshan, is a good **FRIEND** of mine, and he's promised that he and his father will visit our **Oasis**."

"What a great opportunity to get some

* *Maharajah* is the title of kings in India.

support and funding!" Paulina observed.

"But you said there's a **problem**, right?" Violet said.

"Yes," Ashvin replied. His **expression** darkened. "The monkeys in the city have started acting **STRANGELY**. They've become aggressive, and many people are starting to think our project is a waste of **MONEY**!"

"Do you have any idea why the monkeys are **acting** this way?" Pam asked.

"I'm not sure," Ashvin replied. He lowered



his squeak **mysteriously**. "But I think I know who's behind it."

"Sounds like you've got a big problem on your **paws**," Nicky murmured. She looked at her friends, who nodded at her. They were decided: They had to help Ashvin. "Don't **WORRY**, Ashvin. We'll be on the next flight to **INDIA**, and then you can tell us everything in the fur."

"**Yippee!**" Pam cried. "We're going to Chennai!"

CHENNAI

Chennai is the capital of the Indian state Tamil Nadu. In the past, it was known by the name Madras. Today it is a vibrant cultural and industrial center of more than 4.5 million people.

Madras is also the name of a particular Indian cotton that originated in Chennai. *Madras* fabric is very light and colorful, but strong.



A SECRET ADMIRER

The next day, the Thea Sisters headed to the Mouse Island **airport**. Instead of taking five different airplanes bound for Sydney, New York City, Paris, Peru, and Tokyo, they all got on the same direct flight to **New Delhi**, the capital of **INDIA**. From New Delhi, they took a second flight to Chennai.

As soon as they stepped off the airplane, the mouselets were thrown into a **FRENZY**. The airport was bustling! Janitors were spreading out long red carpets, **smiling** flight attendants were adjusting their uniforms, and security guards were **scrutinizing** everyone and everything.

"**Sizzling** spark plugs, mouselets!" Pam said. "It seems like we're already **famouse** in this city!"

"I don't think this welcome is for us. Look!"
Violet replied, **holding** up a newspaper.
The headline read:

THE GREAT MAHARAJAH PANEER VISITS CHENNAI!

On Saturday, he will wear his famous
emerald to a reception in his honor.

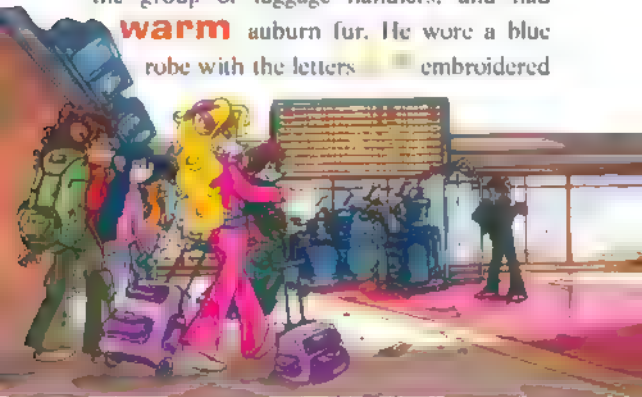


"**Slimy** Swiss cheese!" cried Paulina.
"This **MAHARAJAH** must be super-rich!"
"*Oui!*" And today everyone's preparing

for his arrival," Colette said, pointing to some uniformed rodents *PUSHING* carts piled with luggage.

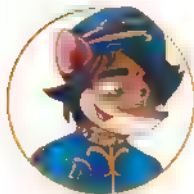
"I can't believe it, *Colette!*" Nicky laughed. "Someone managed to travel with more bags than you!"

The mouselets *giggled* and headed toward the exit. But Colette's tinkling laughter reached the ears of a young rodent standing in the *shadows*. He was behind the group of luggage handlers, and had *warm* auburn fur. He wore a blue robe with the letters *■* embroidered



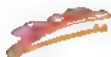
in gold. "What a **bewitching** laugh! What mouselet does that squeak belong to?" he asked as he scanned the crowd.

Even amid all the hubbub, he quickly picked out **Colette**, and his **heart** jumped. He turned to the mice next to him. "We must find out who she is!"



"Yes, sir!" two bodyguards exclaimed. They **threw** themselves toward the glass doors through which the mouselets had just exited. But the **THEA SISTERS**

had already hopped into a taxi and joined the **CHAOTIC** traffic jam around the airport. So Colette didn't realize that she had gained an **admirer** just moments after setting paw in Chennai.



A STOLEN BARRETTE

The Thea Sisters' taxi crawled through the **TANGLE** of cars, mice, and animals that filled the city streets. Vehicles with two or four **WHEELS** sped in every direction!

BEEEP! **BEEEP!** **HONK!** **HONK!**

Screeeeech!

The mouselets' taxi made sudden turns, **screeching** to a halt here and **racing** through traffic there. Paulina, Violet, and Colette linked paws and held on **tight**.

Pam and Nicky, on the other paw, were having the time of their lives. They pressed their snouts against the taxi's windows, pointing out landmarks along the way to the **heart** of the city.



After a lot of **bumping** and **bouncing**, plus a stop to let a donkey carrying bananas pass by, the **TAXI** finally stopped in front of the hotel where Ashvin was staying. Pam crunched on some nuts as they looked around.

As the driver was unloading their **baggage**, a mischievous monkey darted right into the middle of their group.

"**EEEEK!**" Colette squealed as the monkey **grabbed** at her head.

The taxi driver tried to **CATCH** the

animal, but he **tripped** over a suitcase.

When the driver was back on his paws, he turned to Colette. "Did it hurt you, miss? Did it steal something from you?"

"It **ripped** out my barrette!" Colette spluttered.

The taxi driver **sighed** in exasperation. "Monkeys! There are monkeys everywhere here. I can't stand these **pickpockets**!"

Then he added, "And now they'll make us look bad in front of Maharajah Paneer! These **tricksters** used to steal nothing but fruit. Lately they've

been stealing anything that **shines**. . . .

They're more like **maggies** than monkeys!"







A monkey stole Colette's barrette! But why was it attracted to a shiny object instead of Pam's food?



A MISCHIEVOUS MONKEY

The Thea Sisters entered the hotel lobby and started looking for Ashvin. He was supposed to meet them, but **he wasn't there!**

"That's strange. Ashvin promised he'd be here waiting for us!" Colette said, **disappointed.**

But that wasn't the mouselings' only unpleasant surprise at the hotel. **Ashvin** had also forgotten to reserve a room for his **FRIENDS!**

"He's not answering his **CELL PHONE.**" Nicky announced to the others, who exchanged **WORRIED** looks.

"Maybe he left a **CLUE** in his room," Paulina suggested.

The hotel bellmouse agreed to let them into their friend's room as long as they didn't

touch anything. As soon as they entered, the curtain to the balcony **fluttered**, and a monkey peeked in and jumped on top of the bed. It had orange **fur** with gold streaks and a dark face, and it let out a funny cry:

"YEK YEK YEK YEK YEK!"

The bellmouse tried to chase it. "Shoo! Get out of here, you **pesky** monkey!"

But the monkey was very **nimble** and lively. It leaped onto Nicky's head and then **Violet's** shoulders. Finally, it grabbed Paulina's **precious** MousePhone out of her paws.



"YEK YEK YEK YEK!"

The little monkey slipped away



EEEEEEEEK!!!



through the bellmouse's legs and rushed to the balcony.

"My MousePhone!" Paulina shouted.

"I'll get it!" Nicky replied, **HURRYING** after the monkey.

The mouselets took the stairs at a **run**. When they reached the hotel's entrance, they found the monkey waiting for them with a mischievous expression on its furry face. It seemed to be enjoying the **chase**. Then it plunged into the crowded street outside the hotel.

"That monkey wants to **play** tag!" Colette exclaimed. "But we don't know our way around, so how can we **RUN** after it?!"

"With the *tuk-tuks*!"



the bellmouse suggested. He put two fingers into his mouth and let out a **Sharp** whistle:
TWEEEEEEEEEE!

An instant later, two small three-wheeled vans pulled up in front of the mouselets. They clambered in while the bellmouse pointed at the fleeing **monkey**.

"FOLLOW THAT PRIMATE!"

The drivers **launched** themselves into traffic without a moment's hesitation.

The **naughty monkey** seemed to be having a great time. It **zigzagged** from one side of the street to the next. But the *tuk-tuk* drivers kept up with it. They **slipped** between the cars, avoiding pedestrians and carts full of fruits and vegetables.

"I feel like we're in a scene from *The Fast and the Furriest!*" Pam exclaimed.



The *tuk-tuks* almost collided with a black limousine. It swept out of their way just in time.

Colette's admirer leaned out from one of the limousine windows. The **ratling** recognized her blonde fur at once. "It's her!" he exclaimed. "**Follow them!**"

Now it was a double chase: The mouselets pursued the monkey while the **mysterious** ratling pursued them!



But the big limo couldn't weave through traffic as easily as the *tuk-tuks*. Before long, it was **trapped** in a traffic jam. The mysterious rattling sighed in frustration as *Colette* and her friends sped away.

The **monkey** and the two *tuk-tuks* **crisscrossed** the city. They were almost at the coast when the playful primate stopped and **cheekily** turned around to see if it

was still being followed. When it spotted the Thea Sisters, it **CLIMBED** over one of the city walls.

The drivers of the *tuk-tuks* stopped and one pointed out a parallel **street** to the mouselets. "There's a gate around that corner where you can enter. It's the *bharata natyam* **dance** school."

The mouselets quickly thanked the driver and paid the fares. Then they *scampered* to the next street, where they found themselves in a beautiful square shaded by **PALM** trees.



AN ENCHANTING PLACE

Before the mouselets stood an old building with a courtyard surrounded by *thin*, delicate columns. As the mouselets approached the entrance, the **clamor** of the city seemed very **far** away. Sweet music drifted through the school's open doors. The **THEA SISTERS**

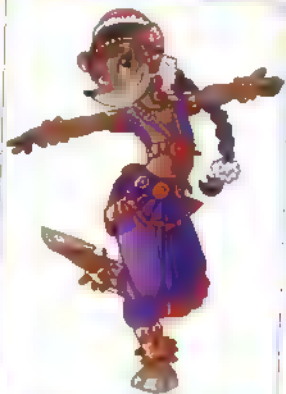


Bharata natyam, which means "dance of India," is a traditional classical dance that originated in Tamil Nadu. It is the most ancient of all the traditional dances in India, and it is the signature dance of southern India.



Bharata natyam began as a way for dancers to worship the gods. The dancers tell stories about the gods' lives and deeds. In the past, *bharata natyam* was performed only by female temple dancers. But during the 1930s, it was revived by the classical dancer Rukmini Devi. These days, it's performed during Chennai's cultural festival every December.

Bharata natyam is dramatic and very stylized, featuring *mudra*, the intricate hand gestures that are seen in Hindu statues. Dancers stamp in time to the accompanying music. Performances usually last two hours, and the principal dancer generally remains onstage the entire time.



Steps from *bharata natyam* are often used in the choreography for musical films. After Mumbai, Chennai is the most important city in the Indian film industry.



moved forward on tiptoes, anxious not to disturb this quiet place.

They crossed through the hall, following the *silvery* sound of flutes and sitars*. Soon they found themselves in a second interior courtyard. It was cool and *shadowy* there.

A group of young dancers was practicing steps in front of an instructor. It was an ancient yet *LIVELY* dance, made even more *joyful* by the grace of the dancers and the *bright* colors of their clothes.

"That's right, *mouselets*!" The dance instructor encouraged her students. "You must give it your best when you dance in front of the *MAHARAJAH*!" Then she noticed the new arrivals and motioned for the students to stop.

"Oh, don't stop because of us!" Violet said. "That was *fabumouse*!"

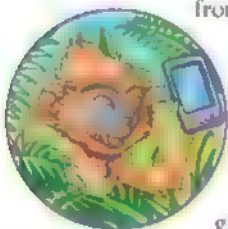
* A sitar is a stringed musical instrument with a long neck that resembles a guitar.



The dancers blushed, **embarrassed** in front of this unexpected audience. They bowed shyly.

"Are you interested in visiting the school?" the teacher asked the Thea Sisters.

Paulina was about to respond when she saw the orange **monkey** peeking out from behind a bush.



"*There it is!*" she shouted. "It still has my **MousePhone** in its **paws!**"

The **Mischievous** monkey threaded its way through the group of dancers, blending in with their **multicolored** clothing.

"Jaya!" an angry voice squeaked. "Not again, you little **rascal!**"

The dancer who scolded the monkey was the smallest in the group. She couldn't have

been more than ten years old.

"Give it back right now!" she commanded.
"And never do it again!"

The monkey approached Paulina **limidly**.
It stretched out the paw that held the
MousePhone. It was almost as though the
monkey was apologizing.

"My name is **Shaila**," the little mouselet
said, smiling. "And **my** primate pal is Jaya.
Please excuse her **naughty** behavior.
She can't resist small electronics. Radios, cell



phones, cameras . . . she takes them and **plays** with them. But she always gives them back, she really does! You must believe me."

Paulina gave Shaila a warm *smile*; the young mouselet reminded her of Maria.

"Don't worry," she said. "My **MousePhone** is fine, and thanks to Jaya, we've discovered this enchanting place! It's a dance school, right?"

Shaila's eyes **shone** as she answered, "Yes! The best dance school in the world!"



TWO LITTLE FRIENDS

The dance teacher led the **THEA SISTERS** on a tour of the school. As they explored the halls, she told them about the history of *bharata natyam*.

Meanwhile, Shaila told Paulina all about her friendship with **LITTLE** Jaya. “We practically grew up together. But while I’m **studying** at school, she wanders around in the city, and sometimes she gets into **TROUBLE**.”

“I’m sorry to tell you this, Shaila,” Colette said, “but Jaya doesn’t



just wander through the **streets** — she also goes into buildings.”

The little mouselet **jumped**. “I don’t believe it! She would never do that!”

“It’s true,” Nicky confirmed. “She came into our **friend** Ashvin’s hotel room.”

Shaila’s beautiful eyes **lit up**. “Ashvin! That explains it. You see, Ashvin and Jaya are **great** friends. He saved her once, so Jaya is always looking for him.”

“You know Ashvin?” Pam interrupted. “Do you know where he is now?”

Shaila **shrugged**. “Nope, sorry! Unless . . . He could be at the **MONKEY PALACE**.”

Pam’s **eyes** opened wide. “A palace for monkeys?!”

Shaila laughed. “Ashvin and I call it that because lots of monkeys and their **babies** hang out there. That’s where Ashvin saved

CLUE!



laja from someone very bad."

The **THEA SISTERS** exchanged looks. This **was** their **first** lead to Ashvin! They had to find him at once.

Nicky asked for more specific **directions** to the palace. Then they said good-bye to Shaila, promising to send her news of Ashvin.

"Mouselets, let's **SPLIT UP**," Paulina proposed. "Why don't two of us go back to the hotel, in case Ashvin has turned up there? The other three can head to the palace. The **first** ones to find Ashvin can call the others."

The other mouselets agreed. So Violet and Colette **returned** to the hotel in one *tuk-tuk*, while Pam, Paulina, and Nicky took another to the monkey palace.



Shaila mentioned "someone very bad"! Who could this be? Could this mysterious rodent have something to do with Ashvin's disappearance?



THE MONKEY PALACE

In the distance, Pam, Paulina, and Nicky could see the shape of the palace Shaila had described. It loomed high above the houses, its tower **glimmering** in the sun.

It was noon, and it was **hotter** than fondue in a pot. The mouselets were tired from their long **journey**, and Pam's stomach was grumbling louder than a souped-up sports car. But once the street cleared and they saw the **palace** in all its splendor, the mouselets instantly forgot the **heat**, their fatigue, and their hunger.

"Thundering cat tails!" Paulina exclaimed. "It's **marvemouse**!"

Now that they were out of the **sun**, the mouselets had a much better view of the palace. It was made of a thousand **carved**

and brightly colored spires.

As they entered the palace's courtyard, Nicky pointed to a covered patio nearby where a pack of monkeys was searching for a spot away from the **STRONG** sunlight.

"Look at all the monkeys!" she cried.

"They're looking for some **SHADE**, the poor things," Pam observed.



But just at that moment . . .

"EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEK!"

An earsplitting cry made the mouselets **JUMP** and cover their ears. The **monkeys** took off in all directions.

What could have happened?

The **THEA SISTERS** looked around in confusion. Then they noticed a **suspicious-looking** rodent carrying a **NET**. He was creeping through the courtyard. The monkeys all fled when they saw him. Before long, the courtyard was empty!

The **shady rodent** crouched behind a column. With the net in his paws, he peeked out toward the patio.

Paulina noticed a monkey emerging from the **SHADOWS**. It didn't seem to have noticed the rodent with the net.

Someone is hiding in the bushes,
surrounded by monkeys.
Do you know who it is?



"Hey! Watch out!" Paulina called out **in warning.**

Hearing her worried tone, the monkey jumped up and fled into the shadows.

"ARRRGH!" the rodent with the net exclaimed, spinning around **ANGRILY** to confront Paulina snout-to-snout. His **thick** black eyebrows formed a single fat bush over his eyes. "Why did you scare that monkey away? Can't you see I'm a monkey catcher?!"

"A **monkey catcher**?!?" Pam exclaimed.

"Yes, I'm a monkey catcher. That's my **job!**" the rodent shouted. He pulled a piece of paper out of his pocket and **warded** it in the air. "My name is Gurnam, and I have an official license from the **POLICE** chief!"

"So you say," Nicky mumbled **SUSPICIOUSLY.**

MONKEY CATCHERS

In Indian cities, it's common to see cows, monkeys, and other animals wandering the streets. But the monkeys have become a real problem. They jump onto buildings, run straight into the middle of traffic, and steal food out of the hands of pedestrians.

So the Indian authorities have hired monkey catchers to remove monkeys from the city and take them to a safe place without doing them any harm. Rescuing the monkeys is a delicate and challenging job, and those who take it on earn the respect of the entire community for their role in the care and protection of animals.

"You **rescue** monkeys?" Paulina asked.

"Do you know our **friend** Ashvin, from the Green Mice? We're looking for him."

Gurnam's snout turned **redder** than a tomato. "**Ashvin!** I haven't seen him and I don't want to see him! He's nothing but a **MEDDLING BUSYMOUSE!**"

Thinking about Ashvin seemed to make



Gurnam furious. "I'm the **good guy** here!" he yelled. "I'm the one getting these monkeys out of everyone's fur. But instead of thanking me, that ratling just keeps **getting in the way!**"

He pointed his paw angrily at the three mouselets. "Scrape the cheese out of your ears and **listen up**, mouselets! You'd

better tell Ashvin to stay **FAR**.
FAR AWAY from me.
got it? And that goes for you, too!
If you interfere with my work again,
I'll have you **ARRESTED!** "

CLUE!



The three friends were startled. What a
nasty rodent!



Why is Gurnam so angry at Ashvin?



THE MONKEY CATCHER'S METHODS

Pamela, Nicky, and Paulina were **stunned**. They hadn't been expecting such a **SHARP** reaction from the monkey catcher.

"He sure went ape!" Paulina said. "But he did have a license to round up **monkeys** and take them outside the city. . . ."

"The wild monkeys are getting to be a real problem in Chennai," Nicky put in. "I noticed it at the **airport**. They're everywhere, and they're very **crafty**!"

"I'm sure not all **monkeys** have been taught to return things like Jaya has," Pam said thoughtfully.

Nicky nodded. "Actually, the **GREEN**

MICE plan to take monkeys from the streets and put them back in their **NATURAL HABITAT**—the forest. That's part of the project Ashvin is working on."

"Right!" Paulina agreed. "But there are different ways to **Capture** them. It seems like successful monkey catchers would try hard *not* to **SCARE** them. But it seemed like that shady rodent wanted to **FRIGHTEN** them. . . ."

As the three mouselets squeaked, Gurnam crouched down outside the courtyard again. A curious **baby monkey** had strayed a bit too far from its mother. Quicker than a cat with a ball of yarn, Gurnam flung his net.

Swisshhhh!!!

The little monkey fell into the trap and started to **wriggle** around, crying in fear.

Paulina couldn't contain her outrage.

"Not the babies!" she shrieked. "You can't take them away from their mothers!"

Gurnam turned and **SNEERED** at her. But that moment of distraction proved to be the baby monkey's salvation. Suddenly, Ashvin jumped out of **NOWHERE** and grabbed the net — right out of Gurnam's paws! Then Ashvin scampered away.



Nicky, Pam, and Paulina could hardly believe their eyes. **Ashvin** had been right under their snouts the **whole** time!

The monkey catcher leaped to his paws and started **chasing** Ashvin. The mouselets scurried after them.

Luckily for Ashvin, he was too **fast** for the big monkey catcher — and he had too



much of a head start for the mouselets. Gurnam stomped away, muttering angrily.

As he did, Paulina noticed a bundle abandoned in a corner. It was **moving**.

"The baby!" she exclaimed, running over to **HELP** it.

Pam nodded. "Ashvin **distracted** the monkey catcher, and then he left the baby monkey here for its mother to find."

Just then, an adult monkey hurried out of the courtyard. "**YEEEEK!**" it cried.

When it heard its mother, the baby jumped out of Paulina's paws and ran to join her. They embraced each other *happily*.





WATCH OUT, ASH!

Half an hour later, Ashvin returned to the palace, very **proud** of himself.

"I bet Gurnam is still looking for me! Ha, ha!" he said, joining the **mouselets**. Then suddenly he rubbed his **eyes** and sputtered, "But . . . wait! What are you doing **HERE**!?"

"Now you remember!" Pam laughed. "Weren't you supposed to meet us at the hotel?"

"It's **lucky** for you we got here before you could get into really **serious** trouble!" Paulina said.

"Gurnam's the one who's going to be in



trouble," Ashvin replied. "He does have a license, but his methods are completely **illegal!**"

"You should be careful, Ash," Nicky warned him. "Your methods are just as **WRONG** as his are, and they might backfire. If you keep this up, he's going to string you up by the tail!"

"Nah, not me," the **RatLING** replied confidently. "Gurnam's slower than a slimy slug in the sludge. He'll never catch me. Besides, I've got to do something. In a few days, the **MAHARAJAH** will be here, and the situation is **only getting worse!**"

Ashvin started to pace **nervously** as he explained, "Gurnam isn't the only monkey catcher who's behaving in this **TERRIBLE** way. The catchers get the monkeys worked up and then divide them into groups without



a leader. They're risking **jeopardizing** our oasis, which uses completely different methods!"

Pam nodded. "Gurnam uses very **brutal** methods, it's true."

"Plus, I suspect that **rat** is hiding something!" Ashvin added.

"Why don't you call the **POLICE**?" asked Paulina.

Ashvin shrugged. "I've tried, but you know how it is sometimes. Hear no **evil**, see no

CLUE!



evil. squeak no **evil.**"

"Ashvin, let us help you! We can document his methods with pictures and video," Paulina said. "Then you'll have the **evidence** you can bring to the police, and they'll take away his license."

Ashvin tried to **calm** down and think. He was an **impulsive** rodent who usually acted on **instinct**. But he knew his friends were right: If Gurnam had him arrested, he wouldn't be able to do anything for the monkeys.

"You're right, Paulina," he said at last. "Maybe that's the **BEST** thing to do."

The three mouselets **sighed** with relief.

"And now," Pam concluded, "I think it's time we found some cheese to nibble on. I'm starving!"



Gurnam's methods are very aggressive, but he does have an official license. What is this mean monkey catcher hiding?



A GALA DINNER

That night, Ashvin invited the mouselets to an event organized by Lakshan Pancer, the **MAHARAJAH'S** son. The ratling had come to the city a few days earlier than his father, and he wanted to show everyone the **generosity** of the Pancer family.

"Lakshan arrived today," Ashvin told the Thea Sisters. "I've told him all about you, and he's **curious** to meet you. So he invited us to a *gala dinner* at one of Chennai's fanciest restaurants."

"A gala dinner?!?" Colette interrupted, clapping her paws. "**HOORAY!** What a great opportunity to check out all the famous and **GLAMOROUS** rodents. I can't



wait to **dress up**."

The Thea Sisters decided to get into the spirit of their host country by wearing **saris**, traditional Indian women's clothing. Colette **dragged** her friends into the city's renowned **silk** workshops to pick something out. Each of the five mouselets chose a sari that suited her own style. They arrived at the restaurant looking very **elegant**!

"How chic! You mouselets look better than an all-you-can-eat cheese buffet," Ashvin said, complimenting them. He was wearing a sky-blue *sherwani** that brought out his beautiful dark **eyes**.

The Thea Sisters were dazzled by the restaurant's **luxurious** lights and decorations. Pam, Paulina, Violet, and Nicky paused near the **door** to take in their **MAGNIFICENT** surroundings. But not Colette.

* A *sherwani* is a long men's jacket made of rich fabric and often embroidered.



She plunged right in, *smiling*. She was as relaxed as a pack rat in a junk shop.

Ashvin led them **CONFIDENTLY** toward the guest of honor. "**COME!**" he encouraged them. "I want to introduce you to Lakshan. He's a bit of a **Bookmouse**, but he's a great friend."

Ashvin approached a tall, elegant young rodent whose back was turned to them. "The noble Lakshan Paneer . . ." he began, trying to get his friend's attention.

The **young** rodent recognized his friend's squeak immediately and **TURNED** with a smile. "Ash, you've arrived at last!"

Do you recognize him? Lakshan was the **same** ratling who'd spotted the Thea Sisters at the airport.

Does he look familiar?
It's the mysterious admirer
we met on page 17!





THE MAHARAJAH'S EMERALD

Colette's mysterious admirer was none other than Lakshan Pancer, the **MAHARAJAH'S** son! That evening, the ratling was wearing a traditional **green** outfit with silver embroidery and a turban adorned with an **enormouse** emerald, which set off his magnificent green **eyes**. The Thea Sisters were struck by the young rodent's noble looks and *elegance*.

Ashvin began the introductions. "Lakshan, these are the friends I've told you about: **Violet**, *friend of* **PAMELA**, **PAULINA**, and *Colette*. . . ." His squeak trailed off when he noticed the look on Lakshan's snout.

The maharajah's son's eyes **widened**,

he grew pale, and his snout dropped open. He was gazing at Colette, who looked more **beautiful** than ever!

"It's a pleasure to meet you!" Colette murmured. She was **blushing** under Lakshan's intense gaze.

"Th-the p-pleasure is all m-m-mine!" Lakshan **stuttered**.

"**HEE HEE!** Ash's friend has fallen snout over tail for Colette!" Pam whispered to Nicky.

"He looks like he's been **bitten** by the lovebug, that's for sure!" Nicky agreed. Lakshan overheard them, and he turned red from the tip of his tail all the way to the **tips** of his ears.

Everyone **laughed**, but the evening's surprises were just beginning. . . .

YEEEEEEEEEEEEEEKKK!



Suddenly, a pack of monkeys **swung** in through an open window. A whirlwind of nimble little paws pounded on the tables, trays, and dishes, causing great **CONFUSION!**

The guests were **stunned** by the commotion. "Someone get this monkey off my back!" one mouse shrieked. Others screamed and tore at their fur.

The **attack** lasted only a few minutes, and it stopped just as **SUDDENLY**



The monkey attack seems so organized! Could someone have trained them?



as it had begun. The **monkeys** quickly swarmed out the windows and disappeared into the **FLIGHT**. The guests and waitstaff in the restaurant were left looking at one another in silent shock.

Lakshan instinctively moved closer to the **mouselets** to protect them. "Are you all right?" He reached out and **gently** took Colette's paw.

Colette smiled timidly. "Yes, thank you, Lakshan, I'm fine. Just a little **surprised** is all."

But Violet noticed that something was missing from the rattling's turban.

"Lakshan — the **EMERALD**! It's gone!"



Lakshan put his paws to his head in surprise. Before he could respond, a rodent's **SCREAM** rang

through the room. "My necklace!" she shouted. "It's **missing!**"

Many of the other guests realized that they were also missing **necklaces**, bracelets, and earrings.

"Those monkeys stole rodents' **jewelry!**" Nicky exclaimed in astonishment.

Pam shook her head resolutely. "We need to get to the bottom of this monkey business!"

"And we have to do it **QUICKLY!**" Ashvin agreed. "In two days, **Lakshan's** father will be here, and when he discovers that his **emerald** has been stolen, he'll be **ANGRIER** than a bobcat on a mouse-free diet!"



WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

The next morning, Ashvin, Lakshan, and the Thea Sisters **met** in the hotel lobby to figure out a plan of **action**.

Ashvin was **dejected**. "The maharajah's going to go **BANANAS** when he hears about yesterday's **robbery**. He'll think that the monkeys are out of control. He's sure to take back his support for our **OASIS**."



Lakshan was **paler** than a slice of mozzarella. "I wish I hadn't worn my father's emerald! But I was **AFRAID** of disappointing the guests who **had** come to see it."

"It's not your fault!" Pam consoled him.
"The monkeys' behavior is very **peculiar**."

"You squeaked it, Pam," Paulina said, nodding. "Why would those monkeys act so strangely? Someone must be **training** them to steal jewels."

"Or at least objects that **glitter** like my barrette," Colette said, remembering.

"Now do you understand why I'm keeping an eye on that **RASCAL** Gurnam?" Ashvin burst out. "He's **behind** this somehow. I just know it!"

"We're here to help you, Ash!" Paulina said. "Together we'll solve this **mystery** and recover the maharajah's **emerald**."

Lakshan **sighed**. "Unfortunately, I'm stuck shaking paws all day, and I won't be able to go with you. But if there's anything I can do, just **squeak** the word."

“Don’t worry, Lakshan,” Colette reassured him. “Just try to keep the robbery a **secret** until we’ve found the emerald.”

Lakshan *smiled* at her gratefully.

After saying **good-bye** to Lakshan, the little group immediately took **action**. First the



mouselets decided to go to Gurnam's warehouse to find out how he was treating the monkeys he'd captured.

Outside the hotel, they found Jaya waiting for them: The **monkey** jumped into Paulina's paws and surprised her with a loud **kiss** on the cheek.

Clearly, the group **had** found their mascot.

To cross the city, Ashvin used a van that was **OLD** and shabby, but plenty big enough for six passengers.

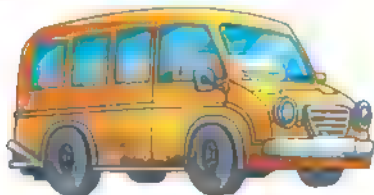
"Do we really have to get into that **junker**?" Pamela asked nervously. She knew a lot about **cars**, and she



had a feeling Ashvin's van was on its last pistons.

Ashvin **CHUCKLED** and invited her to take the wheel. "Pam, it's all about the driver, not the car. With you at the wheel, this wreck will become a **ROLLER COASTER!**"

Pam turned the key in the ignition, and the **motor** roared with unexpected power. "Crusty carburetors, this is no wreck! That's the purr of one **powerful** motor!" Pam cheered. She put her paw on the gas pedal, and they **shot** into the street.





GURNAM'S SECRET LEDGER

When the **mouselets** and Ashvin arrived at Gurnam's warehouse, it appeared to be completely **DESERTED**. After a quick search, they found a small door that was partially ajar. Quiet as mice, they slipped inside . . . and held their noses. The warehouse was **filthy**, and the stench made it impossible to breathe!

"This place smells worse than **moldy** Brie on a baguette!" Colette moaned, waving a paw in front of her snout.

Jaya let out an unhappy squeak. Paulina patted her back to **calm** her.

The warehouse was practically empty. There were just two chairs, a desk, a few

empty cages, and some nets for **capturing** monkeys.

On top of the desk, there was a ledger, which Ashvin **QUICKLY** inspected. "It's a record of **monkeys** that Gurnam's brought to the oasis."

Ashvin and Violet flipped through the ... "Everything seems to be in order."

Pamela **rummaged** through the desk



drawers and shook her snout. "Nothing interesting here, just paper and pencils."

When she got to the final drawer, though, she was **Startled**. It seemed to be **STUCK**. Something was preventing her from opening it all the way.

Pam carefully slid her paw in to remove whatever was keeping the drawer from opening, but with no luck. So she gave it a quick **yank**, and the bottom of the drawer popped up with a **click!**



"A false bottom!" Pam exclaimed. She pulled back the thin **wooden** slat that had popped up. Her eyes **widened** when she saw what was inside.

"Jewelry!" she whispered.

CLUE!



"*Jewelry?!!*" Ashvin repeated in disbelief. He **leaned** over to take a look.

"That's the tiara that was taken from the **restaurant!**" Colette said, remembering. "And those earrings, too . . . **I'm sure of it!**"

"The **MAHARAJAH'S** emerald isn't here," Ashvin said, "but this discovery confirms my **worst** suspicions."

"The monkeys have been bringing the objects they **steal** straight to Gurnam!" Nicky concluded. She was **fuming**.

But there was one last discovery to be made. Under the *jewelry*, Ashvin and the mouselets found a second ledger.



The monkeys took their loot to Gurnam's warehouse. What is the monkey catcher up to?



THE MYSTERIOUS SHILUX

The hidden ledger looked like a **secret** inventory list, but it wasn't clear what the inventory was. There were dates and numbers written down, but they didn't seem **connected** to the work of catching monkeys.

The Thea Sisters noticed a **mysterious** name repeated over and over again: SHILUX.

"No address or telephone number," Pamela murmured. **Paging** through the ledger. When she got to the last page, she found a



note written in pencil: Vettuvankeni,
159 East Coast Road.

"Vettuvankeni . . . that's a village on the coast, about fifteen miles from here," Ashvin said. "It's in an **INDUSTRIAL** zone. Maybe Gurnam has a second warehouse there."

"Let's go check it out!" Nicky **EXCLAIMED**.
"We need more proof to catch this crook."

Ashvin nodded. "You took the words right out of my mouth, Nicky."

Nicky and Paulina **photographed** the inside of the warehouse to document the dirty, **unhealthy** conditions where the monkeys were kept. Then they returned to the van and headed toward Vettuvankeni.

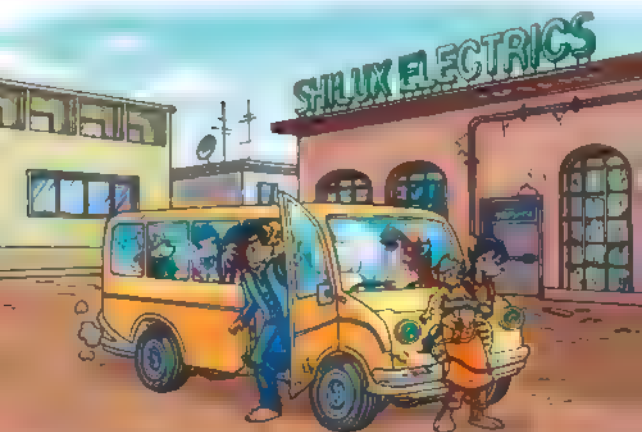
East Coast Road was a wide highway that led along the coast. It was **beautiful** and well cared for, but when they **reached** the **INDUSTRIAL** area of Vettuvankeni, their

surroundings became **gray** and shabby, and full of large warehouses.

"SHILUX!" Colette shouted. "Hook a left, Pam! I saw the word SHILUX!"

Sure enough, an **old** sign for Shilux Electrics hung above a dilapidated warehouse on the side of the road.

Pamela turned and stopped in front of the



warehouse. The place looked **abandoned**. The doors and iron gates were all locked.

Colette, Nicky, Pamela, Paulina, Violet, and Ashvin scrambled out of the van, unsure what to do next. Meanwhile, Jaya **SKIPPED** here and there, livelier than ever.

"Do you get the feeling she's trying to tell us something?" Paulina asked as she **watched** the frisky little monkey.

Pam put her ear up to one of the **IRON** doors. "If only we could get inside." She sighed.

They walked all around the building, stopping when they spotted a **LARGE** car parked nearby.

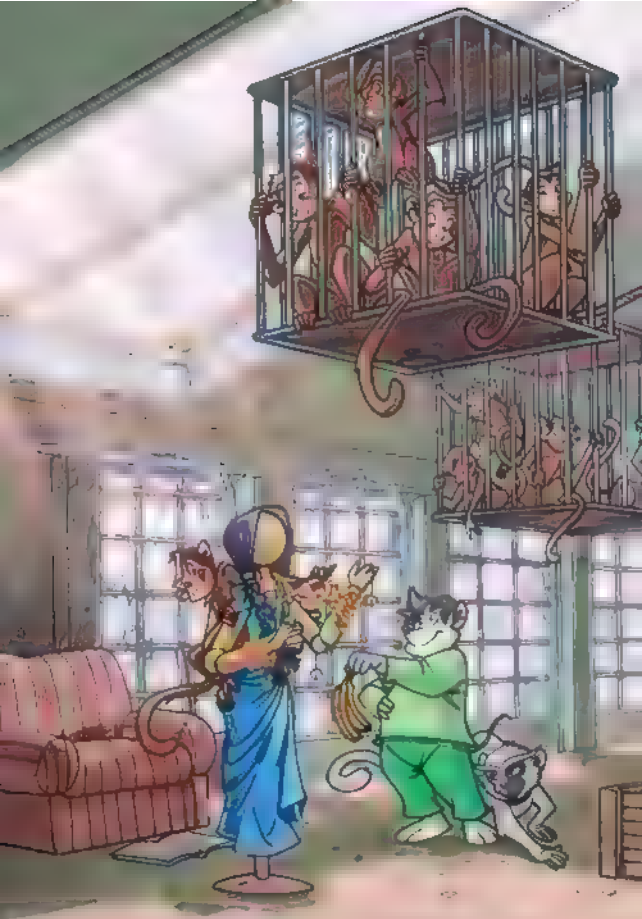
Nicky noticed a metal ladder attached to one of the building's outer walls; it went all the way up to the roof. "I'm going to go get a

look from **above**," she said.

"I'll come with you," Ashvin said.

The two rodents *scurried* up to the roof faster than the mouse who ran up the clock. There was a large skylight that **exposed** the area below them, inside. Ashvin and Nicky leaned over carefully to peek down. Nicky just barely choked back a **cry** of shock at what they saw!









A SCHOOL FOR THIEVES

Below Nicky and Ashvin lay a large dimly lit room, where **dozens** of monkeys were locked in **cells**. The guards had two enormous gray ferocious-looking monkeys at their sides.

"The guards are *langur walla*, 'masters of **langur**.'" Ashvin whispered. Nicky didn't understand, so Ashvin explained,

"Those two gray monkeys are langurs.

a primate species that's

FEARED by other monkeys.

They keep the **stray** monkeys under control."

"Those two **monkeys** really do look **threatening!**"



Nicky observed. "But their masters don't look very nice, either."

"It's the fault of those keepers that those langurs are so **ferocious**," Ashvin said. "Jaya is also a **langur**, but she's been **socialized**. She's used to being around rodents and monkeys, so she's **FRIENDLY**."

But the biggest **surprise** was not that monkeys were being imprisoned. It was that the monkey keepers were training a monkey to **steal**! The monkey drew closer to a mannequin dressed like a rodent covered in jewelry. Then, super **quickly**, it grabbed a necklace and gave it to one of the keepers. In exchange, it received a

"It's a **school for thieves**!" Nicky murmured. "Did you take a good look at that



mannequin, Ash? The keepers have attached small bells to it so the monkey learns not to make any **Noise**."

Ashvin nodded. "And the guards only **reward** the monkeys with food when they succeed."

Nicky's snout darkened. "The warehouse back in Chennai was just the tip of the cheese



slice," she said. "Let's get the others to **climb** up here: They've got to see this with their own **eyes!**"

WHAT SHOULD THE THEA SISTERS DO NEXT?

Do you know what Gurnam is up to? Let's review the clues:

- The wild monkeys in Chennai have been acting strangely: They steal jewelry and shiny objects instead of food.
- Gurnam, the unpleasant monkey catcher, uses devious methods for capturing monkeys. Then he shuts them up in a dirty warehouse.
- After the theft at the restaurant, the Thea Sisters and Ashvin found the stolen jewelry in Gurnam's warehouse, along with a mysterious ledger.
- Following the trail of the name SHILUX, which was written in the secret ledger, the mouselets found a second warehouse: a school for teaching monkeys how to steal!





THE CLUES ADD UP

By now, it was clear that Gurnam had two businesses: a legal one and a **dirty** one!

"That's why he has two ledgers," Violet observed. "In the **OFFICIAL** one, he marks down the monkeys sent to the rehabilitation oasis, and in the **secret** one, he lists the monkeys his henchmice are teaching to steal in the old **SHILUX** factory."

Colette nodded. "Then he takes the monkeys he's taught into the city and forces them to steal **jewelry**. What a sneak!"

"That's why they only stole precious objects at the restaurant, and not **FOOD**," Paulina added indignantly. "We have to let Lakshan know immediately."

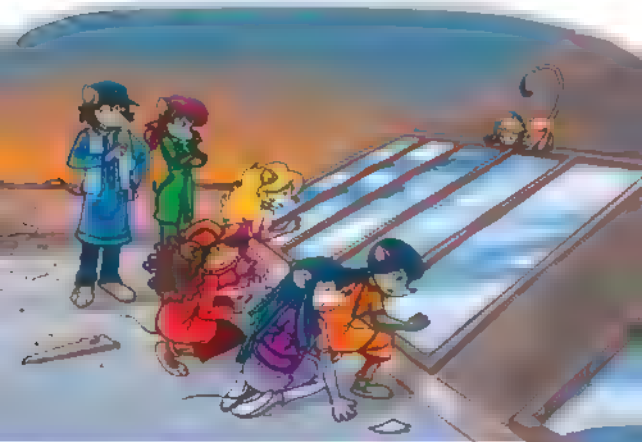
Ashvin agreed. "Right! He can help us **mobilize** the **POLICE**. Then we

can return the **emerald** to Lakshan before his father arrives . . .”

“ . . . and stop that slimy sewer rat Gurnam!” Pam finished, *scowling*.

Unfortunately, Lakshan was busy with a charity event, and his **cell phone** was off.

“We have to find him,” Ashvin declared, heading toward the van. “Come on, mouselets, let’s shake a tail!”



"Just a minute, Ash," said Violet, stopping him. "I jotted down the **DATES** that were in Gurnam's ledger, and it looks like the monkey **transfers** always take place on Thursdays."

"But **today** is Thursday!" Paulina said, realizing the **problem**. "While we go warn Lakshan, Gurnam will take these **monkeys** back to Chennai, and we won't be able to find them again."

"There's got to be a way to **free** them," Pam said. "We've just got to **do something** about those two monkey keepers. They don't look like they're going anywhere soon."

Violet thought for a moment. "Grandpa Chen always used to say, 'Even if the river divides into many **branches**, it always comes back together in the sea,'" she said **solemnly**.

"Okaaay," said Nicky. "And, uh, what do

you think he meant by that?" She was often mystified by Grandpa Chen's wise sayings.

But Colette got it. "Great idea, *Vivi!* If we split up, we can accomplish twice as much."

The Thea Sisters and Ashvin **worked** out a plan. Now was the moment to take ***action!***





PLAN OF ESCAPE

By now, **Sunset** was bathing the warehouse in **fiery** red light. The Thea Sisters and Ashvin **gathered** around and divided up the jobs.

Violet and Colette took on the task of alerting Lakshan. "This morning he told us that the benefit **CEREMONY** was taking place at the most **famouse** theater in Chennai. We'll call a taxi and hurry back to the city to find him," Colette said.

"Sorry to leave you without a ride, sisters, but we need the **WOMEN**!" Pam said.

Nicky nodded. "Pam and I will create a diversion. We'll keep those keepers busy!"

"Then Paulina and I will **free** the **monkeys** and lead them through the forest to the **Green Mice** oasis," Ashvin said.

"Don't forget our **loyal** friend, Jaya," Paulina added. "We'll need her **HELP** to find the oasis."

The little monkey started to somersault with **excitement**, as if she had understood everything.

"I love it when a plan comes together!" Colette cried **enthusiastically**.



Ashvin raised a **PAW**. "Let's do it! *Friends* together, mice forever!"

By now, it was early evening, and *shadows* were beginning to fall. Violet and Colette took the two ledgers and headed toward the main **ROAD** on paw. From there, they would call a taxi to **return** to Chennai and alert the police and Lakshan.

Nicky climbed up onto the roof to **spy** on the keepers again. Inside, it was growing dark, and the two **RODENTS** were watching TV.

"They're eating and watching television." Nicky reported to the others in a low squeak.

"Great! We'll take them by **surprise**!" Pam replied. Then she gathered up her fur, piled it under her hat, and made a threatening face. "What do you **think**? Do I look **FRIGHTENING**?"

Paulina giggled and gave her a pawkerchief.
"Cover your snout, Pam, and you'll look even
tougher!"

Nicky borrowed Ashvin's hat to **disguise**
herself. Paulina and Ashvin hid nearby with
Jaya while Pam and Nicky **burst** into the
warehouse through a side door.





STOP! OUR DINNER!

Surprised by the sudden **noise**, the two keepers sprang to their paws.

Nicky and Pam loomed in the doorway like two **threatening rodents**. The light behind them made them look menacing, and it also kept the two keepers from seeing their snouts.



“Who are you? What do you want?” the **larger** of the two growled.

If Nicky and Pam had fled right away, the keepers definitely wouldn't have caught them. But they needed

to get the keepers to **follow** them so Ashvin, Paulina, and Jaya could free the monkeys. So Pam thought fast. Quicker than you could squeak "pepperoni **pizza** with parmesan on top," she grabbed the sandwiches the two mice had been eating.

"Runnn!" she shouted to Nicky as she dashed out of the warehouse.

**"STOP. YOU RAT BURGLARS!
OUR DINNER! STOP!"**

the two keepers screamed.

But Nicky and Pamela had already **jumped** into the van.

"Fasten your seat belt, Nicky!" Pam warned her friend. "It's time to see how fast this bucket of bolts can go!"

VRRROOOHMMM!!!



Pam put the pedal to the metal, and the van took off at full speed. It **screeched** along the road, leaving skid marks in its wake.

The keepers sneered when they saw Pam's **CLUMSY** maneuver. They hopped into their own powerful car and gave chase. Those two **CRIMINALS** didn't think they'd need much road to catch up to that old wreck!

"Now!" Paulina ordered as soon as the two cars **DISAPPEARED** around the first corner.

Ashvin, Paulina, and Jaya scurried into the warehouse. In their haste to get their dinner back, the two keepers had left the door **wide** open.

YEEK! YEEK! YEEK!

Inside, the monkeys' cries **ECHOED** off the high ceiling as they raced around in their cages. They were terrified! Fortunately

for Ashvin, Paulina, and Jaya, the keepers had taken the two langurs with them.

Ashvin and Paulina opened the cages immediately. They grabbed two

baskets of **BANANAS**

they found in a corner and distributed the fruit to

the animals to **soothe**

them. Jaya gave them a paw.

The rodents were anxious about the two

keepers coming back. But

they waited **patiently** for

the **monkeys** to calm down. They needed the monkeys to **trust** them.

After a few minutes, the monkeys finished their snack. They looked at Ashvin, Paulina, and Jaya. Jaya signaled them, and they



followed their new friends out the door.

The smaller monkeys were **TERRIFIED**. The ones that were more grown up **jumped** around. They were as excited as mouselings playing with a new **toy**.

Paulina spoke to them **sweetly**, letting them sniff her and touch her fur so they'd feel comfortable with her. But the monkeys definitely felt more familiar with **little** Jaya. She made funny faces at her new pals. After a few **shrieks** of encouragement, she became the unofficial leader of the pack.

By the time the group of rodents and monkeys left the old **SHILUX** building, it was already dark outside. There was no time to waste. They headed for the road through the forest. They had to reach the Green Mice **OASIS** as soon as possible.



THROUGH THE FOREST

Meanwhile, Violet and Colette had snagged a **TAXI** and were rushing toward the city. The two mouselets **stared** out the window in silent worry.

Colette put a paw on Violet's arm. "Don't worry. **VIVA!** You'll see, Lakshan will get the police involved in a **flush**."

Violet just smiled. "I **hope** we get there in time. By now, the others will be in the woods, and it's completely **dark** outside!"

As a matter of fact, Paulina and Ashvin were **DEEP** in the forest at that very moment. They'd lost their bearings and were trying to figure out where they were. The trees and bushes were shrouded in **darkness**.



The only light came from the faint glow of the **moonlight** filtering through the **branches**.

Ashvin had been to the **Green Mice** oasis only during the day, and he quickly lost his sense of direction. Even places you know well can seem completely **DIFFERENT** by moonlight!

The only one who was **MOVING** quickly and certainly was little Jaya. She seemed to know **EXACTLY** where to go. Since the **ANIMALS** trusted her, Ashvin and

Paulina decided that she would be their leader. The only problem with this plan was that Jaya had no way of knowing that their **DESTINATION** was the Green Mice oasis!

"Where do you think she's taking us?!" Paulina asked.

Ashvin looked **embarrassed**. "I have no idea. At least she's heading in a particular direction. I'm so **DISORIENTED** I can hardly tell my paw from my tail!"

"Don't worry, Ash!" Paulina reassured him. "**Wild** animals have instincts more developed than ours. Jaya will **lead** us someplace safe, you'll **see**!"

Then the **mouselet** grew thoughtful. "I wonder where Pam and Nicky are. I hope they managed to lose those **CROOKS**!"



TRAPPED!

Pamela used every trick in the book to keep the monkey keepers on their tails. She **slowed** down until the powerful automobile had almost reached them, and then **took off** again, leaving their pursuers in the dust.

Pam did this all the way back to the city. Soon they were **zooming** into the **OLDEST** part of Chennai.

Nicky checked the **ROAD**. "We must be a **LONG** way from Shilux by now!"

"I think so, too," Pam said. "We've really been burning rubber! Paulina, Ash, and the monkeys should be safe and sound in the **FOREST**. I think we can lose those keepers now. I feel squished in these twisty streets."

Pam took a **small** street on her right, then an alley on the left, trying to lose **sight** of

the two rodents, but . . .

SCREEECH!

All of a sudden, she had to slam on the brakes. A giant truck was **blocking** the street in front of them.

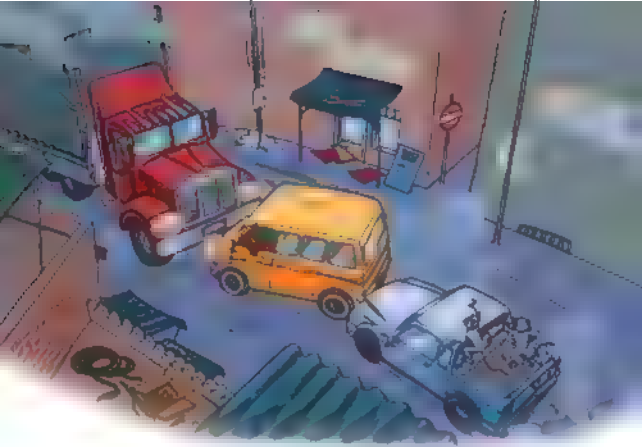
The car following the mouselets caught up to them in a flash. It screeched to a **STOP** behind their van.

Nicky and Pam almost **jumped** out of their fur. They were trapped!

As if that weren't bad enough, who should hop out of the big truck but that **WICKED** Gurnam!

The two keepers had called their chief and Gurnam had rushed to help. He **cackled** as he headed toward the van.

"HA! HA! HA!" We've got you now, you **sneaky** little sandwich thieves."



The monkey catcher flung open the driver's door, grabbed Pam by the paw, and **dragged** her outside. Only then did he realize he'd met her before!

"But . . . you're one of Ashvin's friends!" he exclaimed in surprise. His snout went **pale**. "That means he's discovered my **secret** warehouse!"

Pam tried to **wriggle** out of his grasp, but it was futile. Gurnam had clamped his

paw tightly around hers.

Gurnam was beside himself. "No more **monkeying** around! We must return to **SHILUX** immediately. Something's happening there!"





WHAT A MESS!

Meanwhile, Paulina, Ashvin, and the monkeys were **hurrying** through the woods behind Jaya.

Though it was **dark**, Paulina noticed that the **TREES** were thinning out.

"There's a **light** over there!" she exclaimed, pointing to a soft glow flickering between the branches ahead of them.

Jaya let out a shriek of joy and **RACED** ahead. Paulina, Ashvin, and the monkeys followed her, but they were so **exhausted** it was difficult not to stumble.

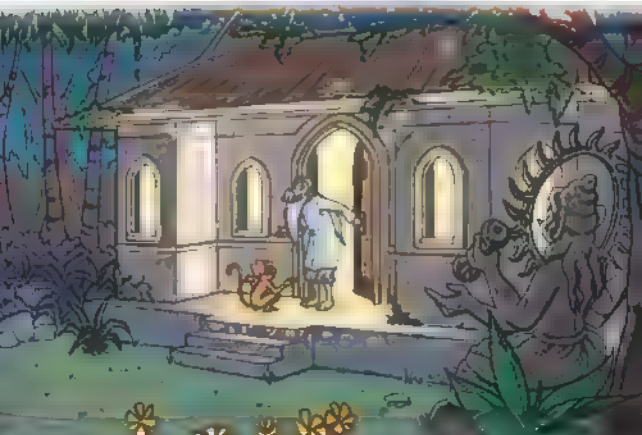
The **woods** led to a clearing where **STRANGE** dark shapes surrounded a low cottage with brightly lit windows.

Jaya's **shrieks** didn't stop until someone opened the door.

A tall figure in a **long snow-white** robe appeared in the doorway. "Jaya! Is that you?" he exclaimed. "What are you doing here at this hour?"

Suddenly, dozens of monkeys emerged from the **shadows** of the forest and surrounded the dumbstruck rodent.

YEEK! YEEK! YEEK!



"Jumping gerbil babies! You brought a bunch of **friends**. Jaya!" the rodent observed with amusement. He was **OLD** and seemed calm and gentle.

Ashvin and Paulina stepped forward and made small bows of greeting.

"Please excuse the invasion!" Ashvin apologized. "We're headed to the **Green Mice** oasis, but we lost our way in the dark. So Jaya guided us here."

The old rodent *smiled* and stroked his long white beard. "No **need** to apologize. Jaya's friends are always **welcome** at the Amita Artist Village." He bowed his head in greeting. "My name is Danesh, and I am the senior member of the village."

Paulina and Ashvin exchanged looks of **surprise**. Jaya had brought them to a village for artists! It was a very isolated place.

completely immersed in **nature**. Here painters, sculptors, **poets**, and musicians could create their work, taking inspiration from the **BEAUTIFUL** forest that surrounded them.

Glancing around, Paulina realized that



the **dark** shapes she had noticed earlier were **STONE** statues. Inside the cottage, there wasn't any furniture, just paintings and sculptures in a thousand shapes and **colors**.

The **artists** who lived and worked in the village **welcomed** their unexpected guests cheerfully, but they didn't know what they were in for. Before Ashvin and Paulina could stop them, the monkeys started to open jars of **paint**. They grabbed some brushes and started to daub at the walls. Within moments, there were **monkeys** swinging **everywhere**, spreading **paint** all over the walls, the floors, the pillars, even the paintings and sculptures.

"Nooooo!" Ashvin and Paulina cried.
What a mess!







FOUR MOUSELETS IN TROUBLE

At the same time, Gurnam had reached the old Shilux factory and found it empty.

"They took my monkeys!

This has to be the work of that busymouse Ashvin!" he barked. He was **ANGRIER** than a cat with a bad case of fleas.

After inspecting every **CORNER** of the warehouse, Gurnam turned to Pamela and Nicky. "Where is your friend? Where did he take my monkeys? You'd better start squeaking, or I'll have your fur!" Gurnam shook his paws **THREATENINGLY**.

One of the keepers scurried over. "Chief! The langurs, chief!"

The two large gray monkeys had found the

runaways' pawprints, which led toward the **WOODS**.

As soon as he saw the tracks, Gurnam understood everything. "That rascally ratling took the monkeys to the **Green Mice** oasis!"

The monkey catcher crouched next to the two langurs. He **Petted** their heads as he asked, "You'll find my monkeys, won't



you, my **Precious Primates?**"

Then, sneering at Pamela and Nicky, he turned to the keepers. "These two snoops will only get in our way! **Tie them up** and shut them in the warehouse. Then come join me. The langurs and I will be **HOT** on the trail!"

Pamela and Nicky didn't try to **resist**. The keepers were too strong for them. At that moment, they were more worried about Ashvin and Paulina than about their own fur.



Pam comforted herself by thinking of Colette and Violet. "By now, they certainly must have reached Lakshan, and soon they'll come with the **POLICE** to free us!"

Unfortunately, she was mistaken! Colette and Violet had reached the city, but the **TAXI** had to **STOP** before it reached the theater where Lakshan's event was taking place.

"We need to get through — it's **URGENT!**" Colette pleaded, trying to gain sympathy from the **Surly** bodyguards who were blocking the road. Security was tight around Lakshan's **event**. After what had happened at the *gala* dinner, his staff wasn't taking any chances.

"We'll never be able to convince those **Rodents** to let us through!" Colette said despairingly. "It'll be faster to leave the taxi here and reach Lakshan on **paw!**"

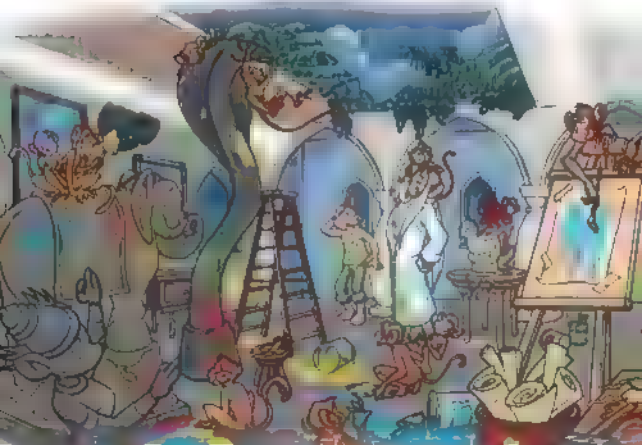
The two mouselets paid the driver and **slipped** away behind the bodyguards' backs. They raced in the direction of the theater with all the **BBBAAA** in their lungs. They weaved between the stopped cars in the middle of the **street**. It was almost as though they were dancing to the **MUSIC** of the car horns!

"I hope the others are having better luck than we are," Violet **whiffed**.



WHAT A CAT-ASTROPHE!

Back in Amita Artist Village, it was a real **cat-astrophe**! The monkeys had opened dozens of paint cans and scrawled all over the paintings and statues.





"These monkeys sure do like making mischief!" Paulina cried as she tried grabbing the paints and brushes out of their **paws**. It was no easy task. Soon everyone and everything was **splattered** with paint!

Danesh was the only one laughing. "**HEE! HEE! HEE!** They've transformed us into living paintings!"

The other **artists** didn't seem quite so **amused**.

Ashvin and Paulina were **embarrassed**. They had to get the monkeys out of the **village** before their simian sidekicks could make another **mess**.

Danesh told them the fastest route to the **Oasis**. He was sure they would reach it before **dawn**. So the motley little crew

resumed their march through the woods.

Unfortunately, their troubles weren't over yet. Just when they were too **far** from the village to turn back, a clap of **thunder** broke the silence of the night. A moment later, it started **POURING** rain!

The little monkeys were terrified. They scattered all over the place, and Ashvin and Paulina had to *scurry* around and gather them up again.

Yet again Jaya showed how useful she was. She behaved like a true **LEADER** of the pack. One by one, she **CAUGHT** the animals that had run away.

The **rain** came down hard and fast. Not even the **leafiest** trees could offer them shelter.

As the night wore on, Ashvin and Paulina were feeling **ANXIOUS**. "Crusty kitty litter!

I'm soaked and muddy, and I've even lost my headband to hold my fur back," Paulina burst out in exasperation. "Any ideas on a place to find shelter?"

LUCKILY, the monkeys, guided by their natural instinct, were already running for refuge.

"Look what they've **FOUND!**" Ashvin exclaimed, pointing to the **spot** where the **ANIMALS** were headed. "An ancient palace in **ruins!**"

Paulina petted the little monkey she held in her paws. "We saved them from Gurnam . . . and they saved us from the **thunderstorm!**"



THE MOST PRECIOUS TREASURE

The same **rain** was hammering the roof of the old Shilux factory, where Nicky and Pam were trying to **untie** each other.

"I don't understand why the **POLICE** haven't arrived yet," Nicky squeaked.

"Me neither, but we've **gotta** get out of here!" Pam replied. "Our **friends** are still out there, and they need our help."

Finally, the last **knots** gave way, and Pam and Nicky **burst** out of their bonds. Nicky took a quick look around to make sure that Gurnam and his henchmice were gone while Pam **searched** the room for her cell phone, which the two keepers had thrown into a corner.

Back in Chennai, the rain had **caught** Violet and Colette outside the entrance to the theater where Lakshan's charity event was taking place. In a few moments, they were completely **drenched!**

"We made it, Vivi!" Colette exclaimed. "Lakshan is behind those arches. . . ."

But she had forgotten that the **theater** would have its own security. One of the guards blocked their way. "This evening it's invitation only, **mouselets!** We can't let you through."

"Rats! You're stopping us, too?!" Violet squeaked with **FRUSTRATION.**

Luckily, at that moment, a crowd of spectators in elegant clothes poured out of the theater. The show was **OVER!**

Violet and Colette stood on **tiptoe,** desperately looking for the **MAHARAJAH'S**

son in the crowd while the guards tried to hold them back.

“**LAKSHAN! LAKSHAN!**” they cried.

Finally, their efforts were **REWARDED**. **LAKSHAN** heard them shouting his name and ran over, exclaiming, “These two mouselets are my friends! Let them through!”



Colette and Violet were so **relieved** to see him that they hugged him tightly — **soaking** him in rainwater!

Violet quickly told Lakshan about **everything** that had happened that day. He immediately called the chief of police. Within a few minutes, he'd assembled a **rescue** team to accompany them to the **FACTORY**.

"I'm sorry, Lakshan," Colette whispered. "We haven't found the **emerald** yet."



Lakshan gave her a serious **look**. “The most important thing is that all of you are safe. The most **precious** stone in the world isn’t worth the **danger** **you’ve** all risked for me!”

Just then, Colette’s cell phone rang.

BEBEBEEP! BEBEBEEP!

It was Pamela! There wasn’t a moment to lose. They needed to reach Pam and Nicky at the **SHILUX** factory as soon as possible!



INSIDE THE RUINS

Guided by the two langurs, Gurnam and his henchmice reached the Amita Artist Village just moments before it started to rain. The **CRIMINALS** immediately recognized the monkeys' pawprints and forced Danesh to let them in.

Gurnam **UNLEASHED** the langurs inside the building, but the animals didn't find anything. "Show me the **monkeys!** Where did they go?!" Gurnam **SHOUTED**. "I *know* they were here!"

The village's artists **refused** to say a word.

Gurnam gave Danesh a **ferocious** look, but the elderly rodent was unperturbed. "Leave immediately, or I'll call the police!" he commanded.

Gurnam responded with a **SMIRK**. "It doesn't matter, old rodent! We'll find those pesky primates with or without your help."

The langurs and his **HENCHMICE** prowled around looking for clues. One of the rodents pawed Gurnam an orange ribbon he'd found **CAUGHT** between the branches of a bush. It was the headband Paulina had worn in her **fur**!

Gurnam examined the **ground** around them and discovered two prints. A flash of **evil** lit up his snout. "They're headed for the ruins of the old palace!"

The **downpour** had turned the forest floor



into a muddy bog, but Gurnam continued through the rain. In a few minutes, he spotted the ruins of the **ancient** palace.

Inside the building, the **monkeys** saw someone approaching. Noticing their **distress**, Ashvin took a peek outside. "I see lights in the forest. Someone's *coming!*"

When they reached the palace's entrance, Gurnam and his henchmice pointed their **flashlights** at the walls, which were covered in **vines**. They quickly stepped inside. It seemed deserted until suddenly, Ashvin **LEAPED** out from the shadows!

The rattling swung by on a vine, taking Gurnam and his henchmice by surprise. "Hey



there, Gurnam! Ready for a little game of **monkey in the middle?**" he shouted.

Gurnam stopped, bewildered. Suddenly . . . **THWACK!** A **banana** peel hit him right in the snout!

The crook pointed his flashlight upward. His monkeys were pecking down at him, along with Paulina and Jaya!

THUNK! **PLOP!** **AAH!**
THWACK! **OOH!** **UHH!**
SHOOMP!

A hailstorm of fruit was raining from the ceiling. The monkeys were taking **REVENGE** on their captors. Gurnam and his minions had to **RACE** outside to get cover!



THUNK!

THWACK!

UHH!

SHOOMP!





HELP IS ON THE WAY

Paulina and Ashvin knew Gurnam wouldn't **give up** that easily. They were sure he was waiting for them outside the palace. Unfortunately, back in the **woods**, they had both discovered that their **cell phones** had no reception, so they couldn't call and ask for help.

"By now, Violet and Colette must have reached Lakshan! Maybe they're on their way!" cried Paulina.

Ashvin shrugged with **dismay**. "But now they'll have no idea where to find us."

"It's okay, we'll get out of this **on our own**," Paulina declared. "We have to!"

Right at that moment, Colette, Violet, and Lakshan were pulling up to the old **SHILUX factory**, where Pamela and Nicky were

waiting for them. Lakshan had summoned a large **POLICE** force to accompany them.

Nicky and Pam explained how Gurnam and his **henchmice** had brought them back to the factory. "As soon as we got here, they **locked** us up. Then they started through the forest after the monkeys."



"That complete **cheddarface!**" Colette said, furious.

"Have you heard from the **Green Mice** oasis?" asked Nicky. "Ashvin and Paulina arrived **safe and sound**, right?"

"They're not there yet, Nicky," Lakshan replied. "The police chief just told me there's been **NO** sign of them at the **OASIS!**"

Pam balled up her fists. "I'll **FIND** them myself, even if I have to search this forest leaf by leaf!"

"**CAPTAIN!** There's a call from headquarters!" an officer suddenly reported, pawing over a **WALKIE-TALKIE**.

Headquarters had just received a call from Amita Artist Village. "The director of the village is very upset," the chief said. "He says that three **CRIMINALS** broke into

the village and **trashed**
the place. Now they're
fOLLOWING
a pack of monkeys."

"IT'S THEM!"

Colette squealed.

"Let's run! Quick!"





THE GREAT ESCAPE

Back in the ruins, Paulina and Ashvin were trying to find a way to **ESCAPE**. Their hideaway had become a **TRAP!**

"There's a hole in the wall here," Paulina noted, **pointing**. "If we can make it bigger . . ."

Ashvin **inspected** it. "We're at the back of the palace," he said. "From here we could **ESCAPE**

without being seen! But this **HOLE** is definitely too small. The monkeys might be able to get through, but what about us?"

"Let's try!" Paulina said. Then she bent down, poking her head into the



hole. She had to crawl, **WRIGGLE**, and work hard with her paws, but finally . . . **THUMP** . . . she found herself outside.

As she passed through the hole, small **stones** fell from its sides, and the opening got a little bit **BIGGER**. She scurried back inside and urged Ashvin, "Come on, we're almost there! Let's go!"

After Ashvin went through, Paulina let the monkeys **pass** one by one. The operation wasn't easy, because the **ANIMALS** were **AFRAID**. They didn't want to leave their hiding place. But Gurnam could decide to **ATTACK** at any moment.

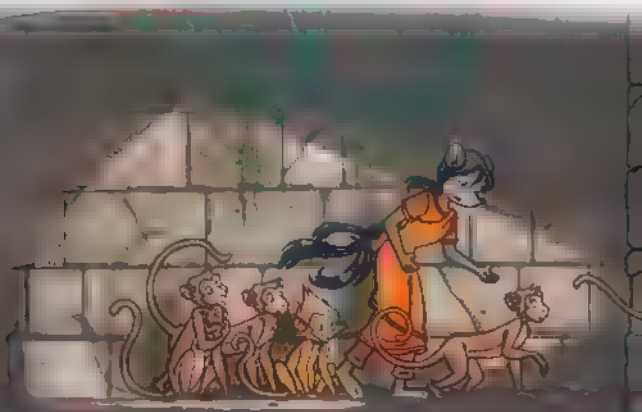
"If he came in right now, we wouldn't be able to **FIGHT** him off!" Paulina realized, looking around **HELPLESSLY**.

Her eyes lingered on the **vines** that hung from the ceiling. That was when Paulina

had one of her genius **ideas**...

While Paulina was evacuating the monkeys, Ashvin was on the **OUTSIDE**, trying to keep the pack together in the pounding **rain**. "Come on, Paulina!" he urged his friend. "Let's move those paws!"

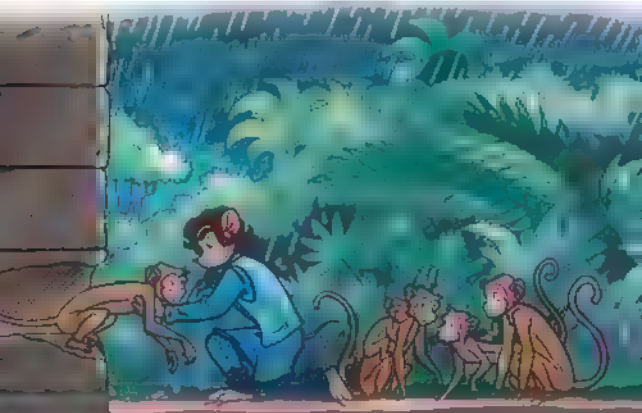
In the **meantime**, Gurnam and his henchmen were **regrouping** outside the palace's front entrance. They decided to **ATTACK** again. "I'm not about to let a few



meddling mouselets get in my way!" Gurnam cried, **GRITTING** his teeth.

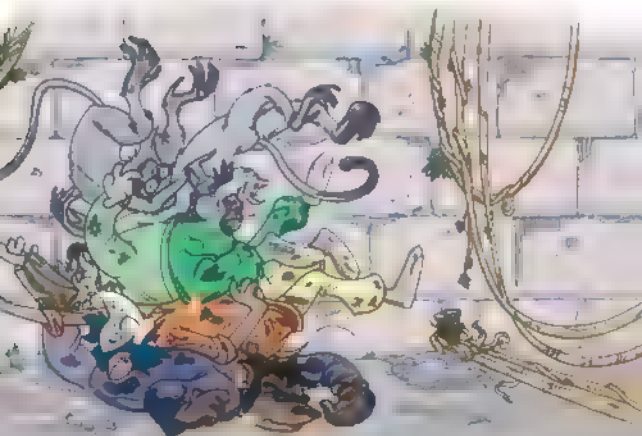
The three rodents entered the palace with their flashlights **lit** . . . just in time to see Paulina and Jaya disappear through the **HOLE** in the wall!

"Stop!" Gurnam shouted, leaping after them. But in his haste, he didn't notice the **vines** that stretched across the floor in front of him.



BADABOOM!

The monkey catcher hit the ground, his two henchmice **TUMBLLED** on top of him, and the two langurs completed the **pile**!





RUN, PAULINA, RUN!

Paulina's booby trap bought her just enough time to get away. But now she, Ashvin, and the monkeys had to **hurry!**

"Run, Paulina, run!" Ashvin encouraged her.

It wasn't **EASY** to run in the rain. The ground was a **muddy** mess, and the poor little monkeys were struggling and **falling** behind.

Gurnam got up in a hurry. His **RAGE** gave his feet wings. He **hurled** himself outside and scurried around the palace. The rain blurred his sight, but the escapees had left a long trail of **pawprints** behind them. . . .

"I'll get them! I'll get them!" Gurnam cried. He was **FURIOUS!**

Paulina was at the back of the group, stumbling over the **muddy** ground with two little monkeys in her paws. When she saw a third monkey that had **fallen** in a puddle, she bent down to help. Out of the corner of her eye, she **spotted** Gurnam just a few steps behind her.

"*Oh, nooo!*" she said. There seemed to be no escape!

That was when the forest suddenly **lit** up around her.

Paulina blinked with **surprise**: A powerful beam of **light** from above was illuminating her and Gurnam!

Then she heard



far-off squeaks calling: "There they are!
Ash! PAULINA!"

Even in the chaos of the moment, those squeaks were unmistakable. Paulina shouted, "**Colette! Nicky! Pam! Violet!** I'm here, **mouselets!**"

Pam ran to meet her. "Are you okay, sister?" she asked, pulling Paulina into a hug. "Just look at you! You're like a **drowned** rat!"

When Paulina managed to extricate herself from her friend's tight grasp, she saw that Violet, Colette, and Nicky had already started to help **yaya** and the other monkeys while Lakshan and Ashvin hugged each other like brothers.

The police officers **ARRESTED** Gurnam and his accomplices.

"Is it all over?!" Paulina asked, exhausted.

"Almost!" Violet said, wrapping her





drenched friend in a **warm** blanket.

Ashvin approached Gurnam, who was now pawcuffed, and **RUMMAGED** through Gurnam's jacket pockets. "Just as I thought!" he crowed. He turned to Lakshan. "We just need to return a certain **OBJECT** to its rightful owner!"

In his paw shined the stolen **emerald**! Ashvin pawed it to Lakshan. "Now it's over."

Lakshan's **eyes** shone with relief as he turned the stone over in his paw. The **MAHARAJAH'S emerald** was safe!

"Thanks, Ash!" Lakshan cheered. "You and your friends sure threw a **monkey wrench** in this criminal's plan!"



A PARTY FOR THE MAHARAJAH

Gurnam and his two henchmice had been **STOPPED**, and the Thea Sisters, Ashvin, Lakshan, and Jaya safely delivered the pack of monkeys to the **Green Mice** oasis. There the **monkeys** were immediately turned over to the **loving** care of Professor Mousewin and his helpers.



Even Gurnam's two langurs found a home in the **OASIS**. For them, the recovery period would be **LONGER** and more difficult, but everyone had faith that they would become less aggressive.

The **emerald** was returned in time for the arrival of the **MAHARAJAH**, who was staying for a week of festivities. The city was more **colorful** than ever: Garlands of **flowers** adorned the shops, and the air was filled with the scent of spices.



The **THEA SISTERS** took Jaya back to her owner, Shaila. To reward the monkey and the little mouselet for all their help, Lakshan invited them to the **GRAND FESTIVAL** that would take place at the maharajah's palace.

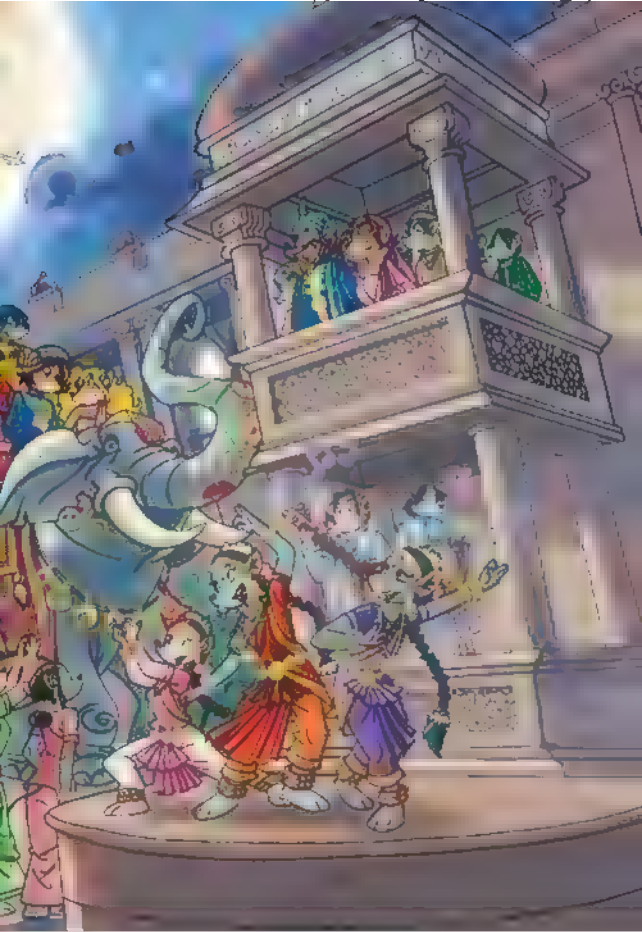


Shaila was happy to accept. The **mouselets** prepared for the evening by dressing in their most precious and sparkling saris. Even Jaya was very *elegant* in a tiny **EMERALD** collar!

Lakshan had one last **surprise** for his new friends: He took them to the festival on the backs of two *beautiful* and *gentle* Indian elephants!

Lakshan and Colette danced together and spent time together during the whole *party*, getting to know each other better.





"Well, *Colette*, have you enjoyed your trip to Chennai?" Lakshan asked.

"Are you kidding?" The mouselet laughed. "It's been more fun than a barrel of **monkeys**!"

The mouselets' time in India had been truly special. None of them would ever forget it.

And it all happened because of their **FABUMOUSE** friendship!



Thea Sisters



**Don't miss any
of my other
fabumouse
adventures!**



**Thea Stilton and the
Dragon's Code**



**Thea Stilton and the
Mountain of Fire**



**Thea Stilton and the
Ghost of the Shipwreck**



**Thea Stilton and the
Secret City**



**Thea Stilton and the
Mystery in Paris**



**Thea Stilton and the
Cherry Blossom Adventure**



**Thea Stilton and the
Star Castaways**



**Thea Stilton:
Big Trouble in the
Big Apple**



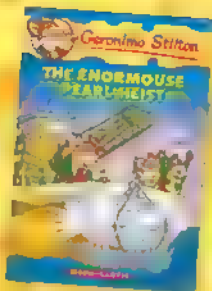
**Thea Stilton and the
Ice Treasure**



**Thea Stilton and the
Secret of the Old Castle**



**Thea Stilton and the
Blue Search Hunt**



Want to read my next adventure?
I can't wait to tell you all about it!

THE ENORMOUSE PEARL HEIST

One day, my friends and I, Geronimo Stilton, made an amazing discovery. We found a huge clam — with an enormouse pearl inside! I was so excited about this extremely rare, precious pearl that I wrote a special feature about it in *The Rodent's Gazette*. That article attracted lots of attention — both good and bad. The enormouse pearl was in danger of being stolen! Would my friends and I be able to protect it?

**Be sure to read
these stories, too!**



**01 Lost Treasure
of the Emerald Eye**



**02 The Curse
of the Cheese
Pyramid**



**03 Cat and
Mouse in a
Haunted House**



**04 I'm Too Fond
of My Fur!**



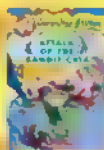
**05 Four Mice
Deep in the Jungle**



**06 Paws Off,
Cheddarface!**



**07 Red Pizzas for
a Blue Count**



**08 Attack of the
Bount Cats**



**09 A Feline
Vacation for
Geronimo**



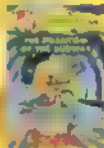
**10 All Because of
a Cup of Coffee**



**11 It's
Halloween, Too
Tricky Mouse!**



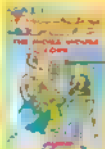
**12 Merry
Christmas,
Geronimo!**



**13 The Phantom
of the Subway**



**14 The Temple of
the Ruby of Fire**



**15 The Mean
Mouse Code**



**16 A Cheese-
Of-the-Camp**



**17 Watch Your
Whiskers, Sid!**



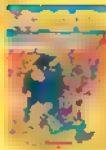
**18 Shipwreck on
the Pirate Islands**



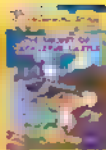
**#19 My Name Is
Setlon, Geronimo
Setlon**



**#20 Sort's Up,
Geronimo**



**#21 The Wild,
Wild West**



**#22 The Secret
of Cocklehar
Castle**



A Christmas Tale



**#23 Valentine's
Day Disaster**



**#24 Field Trip to
Niagara Falls**



**#25 The Search
for Sunbon
Treasure**



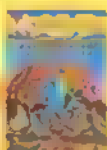
**#26 The Mummy
with No Name**



**#27 The
Christmas Toy
Factory**



**#28 Wedding
Crashers**



**#29 Down and
Out Down Under**



**#30 The Moose
Island Marathon**



**#31 The
Mysterious
Cheese Thief**



**Christmas
Catastrophe**



**#32 Valley of the
Giant Skeletons**



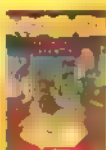
**#33 Geronimo
and the Gold
Medal Mystery**



**#34 Geronimo
Setlon, Secret
Agent**



**#35 A Very Merry
Christmas**



**#36 Geronimo's
Valentine**



#37 The Race Across America



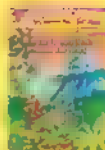
#38 A Fabulous School Adventure



#39 Saving Serenity



#40 The Karate Mouse



#41 Mighty Mount Kilimanjaro



#42 The Peculiar Pumpkin Patch



#43 I'm Not a Supermouse!



#44 The Giant Diamond Robbery



#45 Save the White Whale!



#46 The Haunted Castle



#47 Run for the Hills, Get animal!



#48 The Mystery in Venice



#49 The Way of the Samurai



#50 This Motel Is Haunted!



And coming soon!



#51 The Enormouse Pearl Heist

Don't miss these very special editions!



**THE KINGDOM
OF FANTASY**



**THE QUEST FOR
PARADISE:
THE RETURN TO THE
KINGDOM OF FANTASY**



**THE AMAZING
VOYAGE:
THE THIRD ADVENTURE
IN THE KINGDOM
OF FANTASY**



**THE DRAGON
PROPHECY:
THE FOURTH ADVENTURE
IN THE KINGDOM
OF FANTASY**

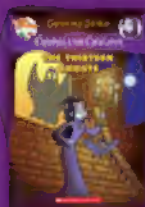


Meet

CREEPELLA VON CACKLEFUR

I, *Geronimo Stilton*, have a lot of mouse friends, but none as **spooky** as my friend **CREEPELLA VON CACKLEFUR**! She is an enchanting and **MYSTERIOUS** mouse with a pet bat named **Bitewing**.

YIKES! I'm a real 'fraidy mouse, but even I think **CREEPELLA** and her family are **AWFULLY** fascinating. I can't wait for you to read all about **CREEPELLA** in these **fa-mouse-ly funny** and **spectacularly spooky** tales!



#1 THE THIRTEEN GHOSTS



#2 MEET ME IN HORRORWOOD



#3 GHOST PIRATE TREASURE



#4 RETURN OF THE VAMPIRE

THANKS FOR READING,
AND GOOD-BYE UNTIL OUR
NEXT ADVENTURE!



Thea Sisters




Geronimo Stilton



Thea Stilton

AND THE
PRINCE'S EMERALD



 SCHOLASTIC